

HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q I've been getting an increasing number of junk phone calls and texts on my mobile. Is there any way to stop this happening?

A One of the most frustrating things about the internet is that many websites require you to register with your email address and phone number. Unless you tick the box opting out of marketing calls or enter a false phone number, there's a chance you will receive calls you don't want.

You can stop this by signing up to the Telephone Preference Service (www.tpsonline.org.uk). Once your number is registered, you are listed on a central register and should stop receiving calls. If you receive an unsolicited call, take down the calling company's details and report them to the TPS. The calling company is then liable for a fine.

There's no service to prevent unsolicited text messages, as these are illegal anyway. If you are getting them, report this to your mobile operator.

Chris Finnamore

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T-MOBILE MDA Compact III

★★★★★

£20 on £30-per-month contract

T-Mobile makes two types of Windows Mobile PDA smartphone: the MDA Vario range consists of chunky smartphones with slide-out QWERTY keyboards, while the MDA Compact range is made up of sleeker phones that make do with a touchscreen. The MDA Compact III is the latest in the Compact range.

While the Compact II had a feminine, rounded shape, the III is all angles and edges. It's also steel grey rather than pink and looks more businesslike. One of the main differences is in the keypad under the screen. The directional keypad has been replaced with a rubber joystick surrounded by a click wheel, which you use to scroll through menu options, contacts and emails. The wheel works better than a keypad in some situations but not in others. It feels more natural when scrolling through an email or browsing your contacts, but to scroll left and right on webpages is a chore with the tiny joystick.

The Compact III is easier to use as a phone, however. There are now dedicated buttons for the home screen's menu options, so you can press a button to bring up your contacts list rather than having to use the touchscreen. Calling someone is now as simple as pressing the contacts button, scrolling to your contact and pressing the green call button, which is an improvement on most Windows Mobile PDA smartphones. Call quality is excellent.

The Compact III is also the first T-Mobile smartphone with an integrated GPS receiver. This means that you don't need a Bluetooth receiver to use satellite navigation software, so there's one less thing to plug into your cigarette lighter socket.

You can buy the Compact III bundled with ALK's CoPilot software. It's impressive to have such a small

phone with built-in GPS, but it's a shame there was no room for wireless networking or 3G data. You're stuck with low-speed GPRS, so webpages are slow to load and it's not practical to receive large email attachments.

The phone's Windows Mobile 5 operating system comes with Pocket Outlook for email. If you have a POP3 email account with a big provider such as AOL or Google Mail, T-Mobile's email setup wizard makes it easy to configure your mailbox settings.

The phone's camera is a big improvement over the Compact II's. It doesn't have a flash or LED for low-light shots, but images are sharp, in focus and have vibrant colours and good contrast. There is room for around 150 shots in the phone's internal memory.

Unfortunately, the phone uses Micro-SD cards, so you may have to invest in a new memory card. It's also a pain to install one, as you have to take the phone apart to get at it.

T-Mobile's MDA Compact III is better than its predecessor, and is a small and stylish PDA smartphone that is easy to use as a phone. Unfortunately, the lack of 3G and wireless networking restrict its internet and messaging capabilities. We'd go for the MDA Vario II, which has 3G, wireless and a keyboard.

Chris Finnamore



SUMMARY

- ✓ Compact and stylish
- ✓ Easy to use as a phone
- ✗ Limited connectivity

PDA SMARTPHONE Tri-band GSM, Windows Mobile 5 operating system, 2.8in 240x320 pixel LCD, 201MHz processor, 64MB internal storage (48MB available), micro-SD card slot, Bluetooth, 2-megapixel camera, five hours' talktime, seven days' standby, 160g
PART CODE MDA Compact III
DETAILS www.t-mobile.co.uk

Also consider...

NOKIA E50

★★★★★

From free to £20 on contract

Nokia's E50 is a slim business smartphone that runs Nokia's latest Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition operating system. It has a high-resolution 240x320 display and an excellent web browser.

You can set up the E50 to receive email from a POP3 or IMAP4 server, and it can view Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents as well as PDFs. It's a good-looking smartphone that's great value and perfect for business users.



SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition operating system, 2.2in 240x320 LCD, 70MB internal storage, micro-SD card slot, Bluetooth, four hours' talk time, six days' standby, 195g PART CODE E50-2 SUPPLIER www.t-mobile.co.uk
DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk ✓ Slim and good looking; reads Office documents ✗ No 3G data FULL REVIEW Feb 2007

SONY ERICSSON K800i

★★★★★

£250 inc VAT SIM-free; free to £30 on £30-per-month contract



The K800i is Sony Ericsson's first 3-megapixel camera phone. The phone's camera focuses more quickly than any camera phone we have seen and it's even possible to capture action shots with the BestPic mode. There's also a proper flash, so shots taken in darkness are properly illuminated. The photos have little noise and are fine for 6x4in prints. Apart from a wobbly keypad, the phone is easy to use. This is the best camera phone available and it's good value on contract.



MOBILE PHONE Tri-band GSM, 3G, 240x320 resolution LCD, 64MB internal memory, Memory Stick Micro slot, USB, Bluetooth, 3-megapixel camera, 47x22x105mm, 115g PART CODE K800i SUPPLIER Vodafone/Orange/T-Mobile/O2
DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk ✓ Superb camera ✗ Uses Memory Stick Micro cards FULL REVIEW Dec 2006

HP iPAQ rw6815 Personal Messenger

★★★★

£358 inc VAT (SIM-free); £130 inc VAT
with £30-per-month contract

HP's rw6815 is a Windows Mobile 5 PDA smartphone. Unlike the hw6915 (reviewed in *What's New: Handhelds*, *Shopper* November 2006) it doesn't have a keyboard, but it does have a larger 2.8in screen. Considering it doesn't have a keyboard, it's surprisingly chunky and almost as thick as T-Mobile's MDA Vario II. HP sells its smartphones without SIM cards, so you can use them with any network, but third-party resellers such as www.expansys.com bundle it with a mobile phone contract and subsidise the price of the handset.

The rw6815 is made of metallic-looking plastic and looks smart. The shiny back isn't ideal, though, as it is quickly covered in greasy fingerprints and gets slippery during long conversations. It is easy to use as a phone, thanks to short cut buttons to bring up contacts and call answer and end buttons. Like all Windows Mobile 5 PDA smartphones, you can enter numbers manually using the onscreen keypad. Call quality isn't great, though, with distortion in the earpiece and echoes at the other end of the line.

The rw6815 doesn't have 3G data, but it does support 802.11b wireless networking to connect to home networks and hotspots. Setting up wireless is easy with HP's Wireless Manager, which groups together your wireless networking, Bluetooth and phone connections in one screen.

When online, you can reformat webpages to fit the screen's



240x320 resolution or view them in their original format by selecting Desktop mode. The phone has a fast 416MHz processor, so pages laden

with graphics scroll smoothly. The handset's Pocket Outlook email program works with POP3 or IMAP4 email servers, but the rw6815 doesn't have an easy email setup wizard like T-Mobile's MDA Compact III.

The rw6815 has a 2-megapixel camera, which takes reasonable photos. There isn't a proper flash, but a bright LED makes a good job of illuminating subjects in low light. Photos are slightly grainy, but are sharp and have good contrast. There is room for plenty of shots in the 52MB of internal storage, and there's an easily accessible mini-SD card slot.

The handset is supplied with stereo headphones, which sound reasonable but are lacking in bass. There is too much background hiss for music to be enjoyable to play. The phone has integrated stereo speakers. These are louder than average and good enough for watching videos, but aren't much good for music.

HP's iPAQ rw6815 is a standard Windows Mobile 5 PDA smartphone. Wireless networking is a bonus, but it's a pity there's no 3G. If you don't mind the smaller screen, HP's iPAQ hw6915 is a better buy for a SIM-free Windows Mobile smartphone.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ☒ Wireless networking
- ☒ Good camera
- ☒ No 3G data

PDA SMARTPHONE Tri-band GSM, Windows Mobile 5 operating system, 2.8in 240x320-pixel LCD, 416MHz Intel PXA272 processor, 64MB internal storage (52MB free), mini-SD card slot, 802.11b, Bluetooth, IR, 2-megapixel camera, 140g
PART CODE FA777AT
SUPPLIER www.hp.co.uk
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk (SIM-free),
www.expansys.com (contract)

CHOOSING A... Smartphone

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

STYLE: Handset
OPERATING SYSTEM: Windows Mobile 5.0
SCREEN: 240x320; 65,536 colours
INPUT: Keypad
CAMERA: 1.3 megapixel
BLUETOOTH: Yes
DATA CALLS: GPRS
Recommended minimum in grey

1 A smartphone's operating system – Palm OS, Windows Mobile or Symbian – dictates its basic features and what third-party software you can install. Windows Mobile 5.0 has the familiar look and feel of Windows, right down to a Start button, and is found on both handset- and PDA-style smartphones.

The only Palm OS smartphones available are Palm's Treo 650 and 680. There are four types of Symbian operating systems: series 60, 80, 90 and UIQ. Series 60, 80 and 90 are found on Nokia smartphones, while Sony Ericsson uses UIQ for its P900 smartphone series. Windows Mobile 5.0, Palm OS and Symbian all support third-party applications, and there is a vast amount of both freeware and commercial software available.

Unlike Windows Mobile 5.0 and Palm OS, Symbian can be customised by the phone's manufacturer and so may differ from phone to phone.

2 All smartphones come with a colour screen. A high-colour depth of 65,536 colours is important for viewing photos or video clips.

Users navigate and input information into a handset type of smartphone using the keypad and buttons or a jog dial. PDA-style smartphones usually have a touch screen, and both Windows Mobile and Palm have handwriting recognition features as well as onscreen keyboards. A few have a built-in QWERTY keyboard.

3 Cameras are common in smartphones. Resolution is limited, with three megapixels being the best you'll get. However, as most images will be viewed only onscreen or sent as a video message, this shouldn't be a problem for most people.

4 Bluetooth makes it easier to link your phone to a PC for synchronisation or wireless web access. For internet access, a GPRS or 3G mobile contract is essential. Data is usually billed per megabyte downloaded, but if you sign up for a data bundle when buying your smartphone it will work out cheaper.

NOKIA E61

★★★★★

Free on £30 contract,
£255 SIM-free



The E61 is Nokia's rival to the RIM BlackBerry. It is made for messaging, with a full QWERTY keypad and large and bright 2.8in screen.

It's a large phone but it's light, with good call quality. The handset supports Push email, so messages are delivered straight to the handset without you having to schedule regular downloads. The web browser is also superb, and the E61 is excellent value on contract.

SYMBIAN SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, 3G, Symbian Series 60 Third Edition, 2.8in 320x240-pixel LCD, 65MB internal storage, 64MB mini-SD card, 802.11b/g, Bluetooth, 9½ hours' talk time, 17 days' standby, 144g PART CODE E61 SUPPLIER www.vodafone.co.uk (with contract), www.expansys.com (SIM-free) DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk ☒ Perfect for messaging ☒ No camera or headphones FULL REVIEW Sep 2006



T-MOBILE MDA Vario II

★★★★★

£70 on £30-per-month contract

T-Mobile's MDA Vario II has a slide-out QWERTY keyboard and runs Windows Mobile 5. The keyboard is very easy to use, apart from an awkwardly placed function key. Scrolling through messages is simple with the BlackBerry-style scroll wheel.

The Vario II supports POP3 email, but you can use Push email only if you can connect to a Microsoft Exchange server. Apart from that, this is an excellent messaging smartphone.

PDA SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, dual-band 3G, Windows Mobile 5 operating system, 2.8in 240x320 pixel LCD, 400MHz Samsung processor, 64MB internal storage (54MB available), micro-SD card slot, 802.11b/g, Bluetooth, IR, 2-megapixel camera, 4½ hours' talk time, eight days' standby, 176g PART CODE MDA Vario II SUPPLIER www.t-mobile.co.uk DETAILS www.t-mobile.co.uk ☒ Great keyboard; 3G and wireless networking ☒ Only Exchange Push email FULL REVIEW Jan 2007

